



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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THREE BATON ROUGE SCHOOLS TO HOLD ELECTIONS FOR STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL CLUBS

Three Baton Rouge-area schools will hold elections for their newly-formed Student Environmental Clubs this week.

BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL will hold elections on **Thursday, September 7 from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

CRESTWORTH MIDDLE MAGNET SCHOOL will hold elections on **Friday, September 8 from 10:00 a.m. - noon**; and

PARK BOULEVARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL will hold elections on **Friday, September 8 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

Merrydale Elementary School was the first Baton Rouge-area school to sponsor an environmental club. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is the clubs' sponsor and driving force, but is partnering with the Governor's Office of Environmental Education and other agencies and organizations in providing resources to the teachers and students. According to Gwen Emick, Coordinator for the Office of Environmental Education, "This is an excellent way for schoolchildren to learn how they can become involved in preserving our natural resources. It provides them with the foundation they will need to make environmentally sound decisions when they become adults. Schoolchildren need to learn that they can make a difference."

The environmental clubs will also allow students to learn parish structure. The school campuses will be divided into five districts, each with its own representative. The club officers will consist of an elected president, secretary, sergeant-at-arms and parliamentarian. Each club will plan and carryout on campus and/or off campus projects and activities that may include a basic plan for litter reduction, graffiti removal, painting, lawn care, composting, wildlife protection and sustenance, on campus bird and butterfly habitats, recycling, and establishing sources of environmental information throughout the campus.

This year, LA DEQ hopes to help 12 to 14 area schools organize environmental clubs as a pilot project.

"We're very excited about this new project in our schools. It is important that we teach our youth to improve their environment, which in turn will instill an element of pride in their everyday lives," according to Jim Friloux, DEQ's Ombudsman. "The lessons our children learn in these projects will follow them for many years to come."

The media are encouraged to cover these events. Please contact Jeff Simon, Ph.D. for more information: (225) 763-5403;
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